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Amendments to the claims

Claims 1-12 (cancelled).

13. (currently amended) A method for use in a system in a vehicle for maintaining components of the vehicle, the system including a display element, the method comprising:

~~computing~~ determining a measure which indicates an extent of performance degradation of a vehicle component due to an operation of the vehicle, the measure being a function of at least a duration;

adding the ~~measure~~ duration to a cumulative ~~measure~~ duration;

determining whether the cumulative ~~measure~~ duration exceeds a predetermined value;

providing an alert when the cumulative ~~measure~~ duration exceeds the predetermined value; and

displaying a selectable option on the display element, a selection of the option causing information about the alert to be provided, thereby facilitating servicing maintenance of the vehicle component.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the vehicle component includes an engine.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the measure ~~concerns~~ is also a function of a rate at which the engine runs.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the ~~measure~~ duration includes a ~~measure of~~ time during which the engine runs at a rate exceeding a

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predetermined rate.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the rate is a function of an RPM value.

18. (currently amended) A system for use in a vehicle for maintaining components of the vehicle, the system comprising:

a device for ~~computing~~ determining a measure which indicates an extent of performance degradation of a vehicle component due to an operation of the vehicle, the measure being a function of at least a duration, the ~~measure~~ duration being added to a cumulative ~~measure~~ duration;

an output element for providing an alert when the cumulative ~~measure~~ duration exceeds a predetermined value; and

a display element for displaying a selectable option thereon, a selection of the option causing information about the alert to be provided, thereby facilitating maintenance servicing of the vehicle component.

19. (previously presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the vehicle component includes an engine.

20. (currently amended) The system of claim 19 wherein the measure ~~concerns~~ is also a function of a rate at which the engine runs.

21. (currently amended) The system of claim 20 wherein the ~~measure~~ duration includes a ~~measure of~~ time during which the engine runs at a rate exceeding a predetermined rate.

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22. (previously presented) The system of claim 20 wherein the rate is a function of an RPM value.